(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of the above.

Impact of Import of Vitrified Tiles on domestic Industry

2303. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of increase import of vitrified tiles into India, especially from China, at low prices thereby hurting the local industry;

(b) whether it is a fact that certain producers in other countries have been exempted from the anti-dumping duty imposed by Government on vitrified tiles;

(c) if so, whether Government are aware that such exemption is hurting the domestic industry; and

(d) whether Government propose to impose Safeguard Duty, *suo moto*, on vitrified tiles so as to save the domestic industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (c) According to the information provided by the Directorate General of Safeguards they had received representations from M/s. Gujarat Ceramic Floor Tiles Manufacturers Association and M/s. India Council of Ceramic Tiles & Sanitary Ware containing brief requests for imposition of safeguard duty on vitrified tiles in 2004. These Association were requested to file proper application alongwith sufficient information. So far the Associations have not furnished any response to the Directorate General of Safeguards.

The Directorate General of anti-dumping and Allied Duties (DGAD) had received an application from M/s. H.R. Johnson India Ltd. Maharashtra and others alleging dumping of vitrified porcelain tiles from People's Republic of china and UAE. The DGAD initiated anti-dumping investigation in the case *vide* notification dated 6.8.2001. Definitive anti-dumping duty was levied in the range of US$ 0.74 to US$ 8.28 per sq. meter by the Government *vide* customs notification dated 1.5.2003.

On the basis of an application filed by M/s. Nanhai Shangyuan Oualin Construction Ceramic Ltd., China PR, a new shipper review was initiated *vide* notification dated 23.5.2003. It was observed that exports by